

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INSE-00 SCA-01 VO-03 IO-13 H-02

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S/S: MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253731

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, MX

SUBJECT:AERIAL REPATRIATION OF ILLEGALS: QUERY BY
GARCIA ROBLES

1. DURING MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT UNGA
MORNING OF OCTOBER 9, GARCIA ROBLES NOTED THAT HE HAD
HEARD THAT PROGRAM FOR AERIAL REPATRIATION OF MEXICAN
UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS WOULD BE PROLONGED BEYOND END OF THE
YEAR AND WANTED TO KNOW IF THIS WAS TRUE.

2. PLEASE INFORM GARCIA ROBLES, IN RESPONSE TO HIS
QUESTION TO SECRETARY, THAT PLAN IS TO CONTINUE THE PRO-
GRAM INTO 1977. CONGRESS HAS PROVIDED 3.9 MILLION DOLLARS
FOR SUCH AERIAL REPATRIATION IN FY 77, AND WE ESTIMATE
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THAT APPROXIMATELY 35,000 UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS WILL BE

REPATRIATED BY AIR DURING 1977. ASSURE GARCIA ROBLES THAT PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER GROUND RULES ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH GOM: I.E., SUCH REPATRIATIONS WILL BE VOLUNTARY, MEXICAN CONSULS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DOCUMENT REPATRIATES PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE, ALL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ASSURE THAT REPATRIATES RECEIVE ALL WAGES AND OTHER MONETARY BENEFITS DUE THEM BEFORE BEING FLOWN HOME, AND THAT REPATRIATION WILL BE BY COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS.

ADDITIONALLY, WE, LIKE GOM, WISH TO KEEP PROGRAM AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE AND DO NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO ISSUE ANY PRESS RELEASES OR OTHER PUBLICITY WITH REGARD TO REPATRIATION BY AIR. YOU CAN ALSO INFORM GARCIA ROBLES, AS WE HAVE DONE BEFORE, THAT AERIAL REPATRIATION PROGRAM DOES NOT REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT STEP-UP IN EFFORTS TO APPREHEND PERSONS LIVING ILLEGALLY IN THE US. THOSE TO BE REPATRIATED CLOSER TO THEIR HOMES IN THE INTERIOR OF MEXICO WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED IN ANY EVENT AND RETURNED ACROSS THE BORDER BY LAND.

3. FYI: LUERS DISCUSSED CONTINUATION OF AERIAL REPATRIATION PROGRAM WITH GONZALEZ DE LEON DURING RECENT VISIT TO SAN DIEGO AREA. GONZALEZ DE LEON STATED THAT WHILE GOM WAS NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE PROGRAM THEY REALIZED THEY WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT. GONZALEZ DE LEON ASKED ONLY THAT PUBLICITY BE AVOIDED OR ELSE THE GOM MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER. END FYI. KISSINGER

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